

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES June 17, 2021

The meeting opened at 4:09.

Members present: Emily Eyre (co-chair), Pat Konecky (co-chair), Marj Wexler, Sharon Waskow, Corinna Barnard, Robin Goldberg and Richard Allen. Also present: Bonnie Greenwood

Minutes of the May 13, 2021, meeting were accepted unanimously with the note to add guest Bonnie Greenwood to list of attendees.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Sustainability Report: Plastic and paper prices are now \$107.06 per ton. The processing fee is \$93.50 thus the town's profit will be \$9.49 per ton.

Old Business:

Berkshire Edge: Rain Barrel Distribution Day Photo Essay is next. Sharon is considering the topic of Reusables.

Rain Barrel Final Update: Rain Barrel Distribution Day Photo Essay will run in the Berkshire Edge and July Town Newsletter. Emily has created a questionnaire for customer feedback, which she will send to each rain barrel customer.

The committee voted to move forward with regard installing the Apparel Impact Clothing Donation Bin at transfer station. Next step is to speak with Bill at the TS and Jim Noe Highway Department for their input and after that, seek Board of Selectmen approval.

Peaker Plant Update: Pat believes recent word of mouth to urging residents to reduce usage during the recent heat-wave was beneficial, as the peaker plants did not turn on during the heat-wave. Pittsfield Generating is not speaking with the Peaker Plant Project. Co-Gentrics was extremely enthusiastic and asked the Peaker Plant Project to meet. The Project is planning demonstrations at Pittsfield Generating.

Emily asked the committee to consider creating an "associate membership" status for regularly participating volunteers. The committee preferred a different name but had no immediate suggestions. Discussion took place suggesting we invite residents to participate in the Green Committee via Egremont Post and the town newsletter. Bonnie Greenwood volunteered to assist Emily in writing a brief, upbeat invitation.

The committee voted to participate in meeting quarterly with Lee and Sheffield Green Committees. This project is being lead by Stephanie Blumenthal of the Sheffield Green Committee. Full Green Committee participation at every meeting is not required but there should always be a minimum of 1-2 members. Greater participation, depending on availability, would be most welcome.

Other Business:

Robin Goldberg and Juliette Haas each requested a temporary leave of absence. Corinna Barnard submitted her resignation to the Green Committee and Board of Selectmen. All stated their work schedules are extremely demanding at this time.

Upon Corinna Barnard's resignation from the Green Committee, meeting minutes will be taken alternately by Pat Konecky and Emily Eyre.

New Business:

Pat introduced the topic of speaking with Board of Selectmen about the range or limits of our ability to advocate for Green issues. The committee will discuss the topic further at next meeting before approaching the board.

Because of time limitation, the discussion regarding the Town of Egremont pesticide spraying becoming an official ban was postponed to next meeting.

Because of time limitation full discussion regarding the Expanded Bottle Redemption Bill Legislation was postponed. Pat will confirm with Stephanie Blumenthal to see where the bill is appearing.

Sharon volunteered to promote Plastic Free July in Town Newsletter and NeighborNet

Signing an action alert to advance producer responsibility (paint, paper, mattresses) was discussed. Only a town agency can sign. The committee discussed it would be prudent, while not required, to receive approval from the Board of Selectmen. The deadline for signing is June 22, 2021. Committee voted to proceed providing there is not objection after reading the Action Alert to Advance Producer Responsibility.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 4pm at Town Hall

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Eyre